

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MA
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S SPEECH TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: ANTANANARIVO 1379

1. SUMMARY. SO FAR ONLY EXCERPTS AND SUMMARIZED SECTIONS OF
PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA'S SPEECH TO INAUGURAL SESSION OF ANP
(ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE POPULAIRE) HAVE COME OUT IN OFFICIAL
PUBLICATIONS. SPEECH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MOSTLY A
CATALOG OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED AND OF TASKS THAT REMAIN TO BE
DONE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON RECENT HISTORY, SPEECH HEAVY WITH CATCHWORDS OF PRESENT
REGIME. MADAGASCAR HAD "LIBERATED ITSELF FROM THE HOLD AND
SEQUELS OF COLONIALISM" AND "THE DOMINATION OF A MINORITY
ACCUSTOMED TO LIVING OFF THE SWEAT OF OTHERS AND TO EXPLOITING
NATIONAL WEALTH IN CONNIVANCE WITH FOREIGNERS, WITH NO SCRUPLES
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ABOUT FOREIGN DOMINATION. THE IMPERIALIST TACTIC IS
UNDONE. ...FOREIGNERS WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO FORCE US
BY INJUSTICE AND FORCE TO FOLLOW A PATH WHICH WE DO NOT
LIKE. INDEPENDENCE IS ONLY VANITY WHILE FOREIGNERS
DOMINATE THE ECONOMY OF THE COUNTRY, WHILE FOREIGN NATIONS
MAKE THEIR CAPITAL FRUCTIFY IN SOVEREIGN FASHION IN OUR
COUNTRY, WHILE FOREIGNERS EXPLOIT PRACTICALLY ALL OUR LARGE

FERTILE LANDS, AND WHILE FOREIGN TROOPS STAND GUARD OVER THIS ENORMOUS ADVANTAGE."

3. ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESIDENT SAID MADAGASCAR WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SAHARA, PALESTINE, TIMOR, ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA, SOUTH AFRICA, MAYOTTE, ETC. IN ITS FOREIGN POLICY THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT HAD MADE GOOD ON ITS PROMISES. "WITH OUR POLICY OF 'TOUS AZIMUTS' WE HAVE ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHO AGREE TO RESPECT OUR SOVEREIGNTY AND NOT TO INTERFERE IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE CHOICE OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO BE OUR PARTNERS WAS AT THE ORIGIN OF A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ADVANTAGES AMOUNTING TO OVER 25 BILLION FMG IN OUR FAVOR. HOWEVER, WE COUNT ON MOSTLY OURSELVES AND ON OUR OWN EFFORTS FOR OUR DEVELOPMENT, NOT ON FOREIGN AID." PRESIDENT ALSO SAID THAT IMPERIALISM WOULD CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE SUBVERSIVE EFFORTS AND TO ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE THE FORCES OF THE LEFT, AND THAT SOME EMBARGOES HAD BEEN AIMED AT MADAGASCAR TO PUNISH ITS AUDACITY, AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO DIFFICULTIES IN BUYING RICE.

4. IN ECONOMIC SECTOR, RATSIRAKA LISTED DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF REGIME, PARTICULARLY IN FORMERLY UNDERPRIVILEGED REGIONS, CITING MANY PROJECTS BUT SPECIFYING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE INVOLVED ONLY IN THE CASE OF THOSE AIDED BY THE CHINESE. HE ALSO SPOKE OF LAND NATIONALIZATIONS EFFECTED AND SAID LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKS WERE UNDERWAY WITH THE FRENCH FOR THE TAKEOVER OF REMAINING LARGE FOREIGN-OWNED ESTATES. HE NOTED THAT IN THIS ERA THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH COULD FEED THEIR OWN POPULATION AND HAVE SURPLUS LEFT FOR EXPORT WERE POWERFUL. SELF-SUFFICIENCY WOULD BE SOUGHT BY DISTRIBUTING NATIONALIZED LANDS TO COOPERATIVES RATHER THAN INDIVIDUALS, THEREBY ALSO "DISCOURAGING EGOTISM." HE ASSERTED THAT NATIONALIZATION OF EXPORT-IMPORT FIRMS WOULD BE MADE COMPLETE IN ORDER TO STOP ILLEGAL FLIGHT OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND THAT STEPS ALREADY TAKEN HAD MOVED TRADE BALANCE TOWARD EQUILIBRIUM AND STRENGTHENED THE CURRENCY. NATIONALIZED BANKS WOULD HENCEFORTH WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTION FOR PROFIT OF PEOPLE RATHER THAN THEIR OWN GAIN.

5. IN INTERNAL POLITICAL REFERENCES PRESIDENT RATSIRAKA SAID THAT DEVELOPMENT AND RECONSTRUCTION OF THE NATION "DEPENDENT UPON THE ADVENT OF A SINGLE PARTY" AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CERTAIN STRAYED COMRADES OF THE LEFT WOULD JOIN IN IT. BARRETT

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